

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-14 and 16-34 are pending. By this response, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 14, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25 and 26 are amended, claims 3 and 15 canceled and claim 34 added. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of claims 4-9, 13, 15-17 and 25-28 as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants note that claims 4, 5, 8, 17, 25 and 26 have been amended to include the features of their respective base claim and any intervening claim. Therefore, claims 4, 5, 8, 17, 25 and 26 are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 3, 12, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sobol (U.S. 2002/0071035); and claims 10, 11, 20, 21, 31, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 14

Regarding independent claim 14, the indicated allowable feature of claim 15 has been incorporated into claim 14. Thus, claim 14 is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection with respect to claim 14 be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 23

The Office Action rejects independent claims 1 and 23 in view of Sobol. Applicants respectfully submit that Sobol fails to teach all the claimed limitations of independent claims 1 and 23, as required.

Sobol teaches a printer having a cradle (150) for a digital camera or separately a based unit (404) that performs functions in the same manner as the cradle. When a digital camera is placed in the cradle, the camera can transfer data between the camera and printer or computer. On the cradle and base unit a mechanic switch (180) is located which allows a user to switch from a first to a second operative position. As described in Sobol, "the first operative position may permit transfer of data between a digital camera and the printer 100. The second operative position may prevent the transfer of data between the digital camera and printer 100." See column 3, paragraph 27.

Sobol cradle relies on a mechanical switch to change operative positions. This requires a user to interface with the cradle in order to engage the switch. Embodiments of the Applicants invention are designed to limit the user's involvement in synchronizing a digital camera with an external device. This is accomplished by the camera including a detection device that automatically changes an operative mode of the camera when mounted in the cradle such that it will communicate with an external device.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sobol fails to teach a detection device located in a digital camera. In fact, Sobol is silent with respect to a switching operation performed by a digital camera. Sobol teaches the cradle having a capability of performing a switching operation. However, this operation is performed by the cradle and not by a digital camera and furthermore requires a user to make the switch. In contrast, embodiments of the Applicants invention is automatically performed in the camera upon placement of the camera in the cradle.

Thus, Sobol fails to teach, *inter alia*, a detection device that automatically changes an operation mode of the camera when the camera is mounted in the cradle enabling communication with the external apparatus, as recited in claim 1 and a detection device that automatically changes an operation mode of the camera to communicate with the external apparatus, as recited in claim 23. Dependent claims 2, 4-13 and 24-34 are also distinguishable for the above reasons as well as for the additional features they recite. According, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4-14 and 16-34 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact applicant's representative at the telephone number of the undersigned below in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$120.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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